

① associating said universally unique identifier with information relating to said biological sample; and
utilizing said universally unique identifier to identify said biological sample.

② 43. (Amended) A method for identifying a container, comprising:
providing a container having an outer surface;
marking said outer surface of said container with a universally unique identifier which distinguishes said container from other like containers independently of the contents of said container, said universally unique identifier comprising one or more areas having a first specular reflectance that differs from a second specular reflectance of said outer surface adjacent to said one or more areas;
detecting said universally unique identifier; and
associating said universally unique identifier with one or more items of information pertaining to use, planned use or contents of said container.

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of the telephone interview which was held on July 16, 2002. The claim amendments presented herein are the same as those which were discussed with the Examiner during the interview.

In the Advisory Action mailed on April 23, 2002, the Examiner stated that "since Applicants use the code for identifying different types of sample, it would be logical that no two samples would be identical and thus, no two codes would be alike". However, as pointed out during the interview, the universally unique identifier of the present invention distinguishes a given container from other like containers *independently of the contents of the container*. This feature of the invention is now expressly recited in each of the amended independent claims 33 and 43. Accordingly, the Examiner's rationale is no longer believed to be applicable.